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Farm Broadcasters Letter



Letter No. 2285

Oct. 23, 1986

SOVIET GRAIN DATA

The Soviet has released its grain yield and production figures for the 1981-85 crops for the first time. Here are the official production figures for the total Soviet grain crop and corresponding estimates by the U.S. Department of Agriculture: In 1981, the official Soviet data shows grain production of 158,216,000 metric tons...USDA estimate was 160,000,000 metric tons. In 1982, Soviet data, 186,773,000 metric tons...USDA estimate, 180,000,000. In 1983, Soviet data, 192,216,000...USDA estimate, 190,000,000. In 1984, Soviet data, 172,627,000...USDA estimate, 170,000,000. In 1985, Soviet data, 191,674,000 metric tons...USDA estimate, 190,000,000 metric tons.

AGRICULTURE AND TAX REFORM

The impact of the Tax Reform Act on individual farmers will depend, among other things, on the farmer's income and investments. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the tax burden should not change substantially for most. However, livestock producers with relatively high annual investment and a large proportion of their gross receipts from culled livestock could face higher taxes. Capital spending will likely be slightly less and decisions will be based more on profitability than on tax benefits.

U.S.-TAIWAN LONG-TERM GRAIN AGREEMENT

A private, five-year trade agreement between U.S. exporters and Taiwan's importers has been renewed for the 1986/91 period, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The new agreement calls for Taiwan to purchase at least 8 million 600 thousand tons of corn, 2 million 850 thousand tons of wheat, 1 million tons of barley and 5 million 700 thousand tons of soybeans. Taiwan generally purchases far more than specified in the agreement.

FARM FINANCES - 1985

The top earners among States in farm cash receipts for 1985 were, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture: California, \$14 billion; Texas, \$9 billion 300 million; Iowa, \$9 billion 200 million; Illinois, \$7 billion 800 million; and Nebraska, \$7 billion 200 million. Crop receipt leaders were California, Illinois, Iowa, Texas, and Florida. Leaders in livestock receipts were Texas, Iowa, California, Nebraska, and Wisconsin. (For more information, call Linda Farmer, 202/786-18094.)

MAJOR COMMODITY
SALES BY
STATES FOR '85

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the States earning the most from major commodity sales in 1985 were: Texas for cattle and calves; Wisconsin for dairy products; Illinois and Iowa for soybeans, corn and hogs; Kansas for wheat, Arkansas for broilers; and California for eggs, hay and lettuce.

EC GROWING
AGGRESSIVE

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, for a couple of weeks in a row during October the EC raised its subsidy levels for wheat exports by 4-5 pct. to 126 European Community Units per metric tons - that's U.S. \$130 per ton - and increased subsidy levels for durum wheat destined for Yugoslavia, Albania and Mediterranean Basin countries. The EC Commission also has decided to offer barley at subsidized rates for export to Asia, particularly Japan. French officials also reportedly told Algerian officials they would be willing to undercut U.S. offers to the extent necessary to regain their market share. The U.S. market share of the Algerian barley market jumped from 20 pct. in 1984/85 to 45 pct. in 1985/86, largely as a result of a 1-million-ton Export Enhancement Program.

GLOBAL GRAIN
TRADE DROPS

Preliminary estimates by the U.S. Department of Agriculture of world grain trade for the year completed on Sept. 30 indicate a sharp drop from earlier years. Reasons for the decline include: rising production in countries that have been traditional importers; diminished buying power in some third world countries; and the heavy debt loads of many developing countries and their inability to shoulder more debt-servicing burdens. The highest wheat trade was in 1984/85, totaling 106 million 900 thousand tons, of which just over 36 pct. was U.S. wheat. In 1985/86, world trade in wheat totaled 85 million 200 thousand tons, of which U.S. share was just over 29 pct. In 1984/85, world coarse grains trade totaled 100 million 700 thousand tons of which over 56 pct. was U.S. grains. In 1985/86, the world total was 81 million 500 thousand tons, of which just over 44 pct. was U.S. share.

BRAZIL WANTS
MORE CORN

According to Brazilian government officials, Brazil will need to import 1½ to 2 million tons of corn through Feb. 1987. In 1985/86, Brazil imported a record 1 million 900 thousand tons of corn, with the U.S. supplying an estimated 55 pct., according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. As a result of the revised import forecast, U.S. sales prospects may improve considerably. Brazilian production in the 1986 crop year declined by 10 pct. to 120 million tons from 1985's near-record production. Increased use of corn in the feed sector has led to a record use forecast of 22 million 500 thousand tons in 1986/87.

EC TARGETS
JAPAN

In a bid to find more outlets for its surplus barley, the European Community will offer subsidies for barley exports to Japan for the first time in several years, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Japanese barley market is dominated by Australia and Canada, providing approximately 90 pct. of the 1 million 400 thousand tons.

FROM OUR
TELEVISION
SERVICE

WEATHER AND CROP UPDATE...USDA chief meteorologist Dr. Norton Strommen takes a look at the latest weather and crop conditions for the U.S., including the status of the Midwest planting season and what's expected for crop conditions in the coming months. Vic Powell interviews. (301)

CURRENT AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK - I...USDA economist Herb Moses talks about major factors impacting a producer's tax bill under the Tax Reform Act and focuses on the situation for production inputs this year. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (302)

CURRENT AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK - II...USDA economist Herb Moses continues his discussion on the latest agricultural outlook, commenting on the Targeted Export Assistance Program as well as the current health of the Farm Credit System. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (303)

SHEEP MARKETING...Direct marketing is a popular practice used by farmers to sell their goods directly to the consumer. Katherine Tyler, a farmer from Baltimore County, Maryland, talks with "Farm Day's" Marilyn Maguire about her success in this form of marketing. DeBoria Janifer introduces. (304)

ARS RESEARCH FEATURES...Scientists with USDA's Agricultural Research Service are developing instruments that control moisture content of cotton; and exploring monitors that measure fat content. Will Pemble interviews. (305)

FROM OUR RADIO
SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1534...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) Are American farmers still the most efficient farmers in the world? On this edition of Agriculture USA Gary Crawford explores the issue with Dr. Henry Kelly of the Office of Technology Assessment.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1523...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Tax reform and the American farmer; Ag. pollution and the Chesapeake Bay; The growing market in Algeria; Are U.S. farmers falling behind?

CONSUMER TIME #1016...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) Fall is lawn time; Alternative housing for the elderly; Secrets of human milk; Hearing damage from noise; New beef storage study.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Tues, Nov. 4, Weekly weather and crop outlook; Mon, Nov. 10, Horticultural products review; Soviet grain situation and outlook; Crop production report; World agricultural supply and demand. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

OFF MIKE

We keep seeing a familiar face in the hallways these days, Garth Clark's. He's the new Washington reporter for Farm Day, the daily ag show produced by Glenn Tolbert at Maryland Public Television. Garth is covering USDA and Congressional activities ... From the latest newsletter put out by Don Wick (KLGR, Redwood Falls, Minn), we learned that Don, like many other farm broadcasters, not only reports on county and state fair activities but gets involved in them as well. Don writes in his newsletter that he entered the Redwood County fair's open class hog show and ended up winning third in the barrow class. Not as good as last year, though, when he had the grand champion in the open class dairy show ... Important information for you if you would like to tap information coming out in the Agricultural Outlook Conference, Dec. 2-4. There will again be a 900 telephone service for many of the sessions. The 900 service, if you're not already familiar with it, gives you live access to the important speeches and reports. There's a relatively low cost for the service: 50-cents for the first minute and 35-cents for each additional minute. So, a half-hour session would cost \$10.65. If you would like a schedule of what will be available on the 900-line service during Outlook Conference, let us know ... If you have a downlink dish and can access Westar III, Transponder 2, and have a tunable receiver, let us know. We're getting set up to provide special radio events on that satellite and transponder. These special events will be USDA press conferences held with Washington, D.C. press and the "telephone" press conferences held with farm broadcasters on a teleconferencing "bridge." We'll put you on a notification list for when we have these special events. You'll get on every one and will save the cost of a phone call.

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